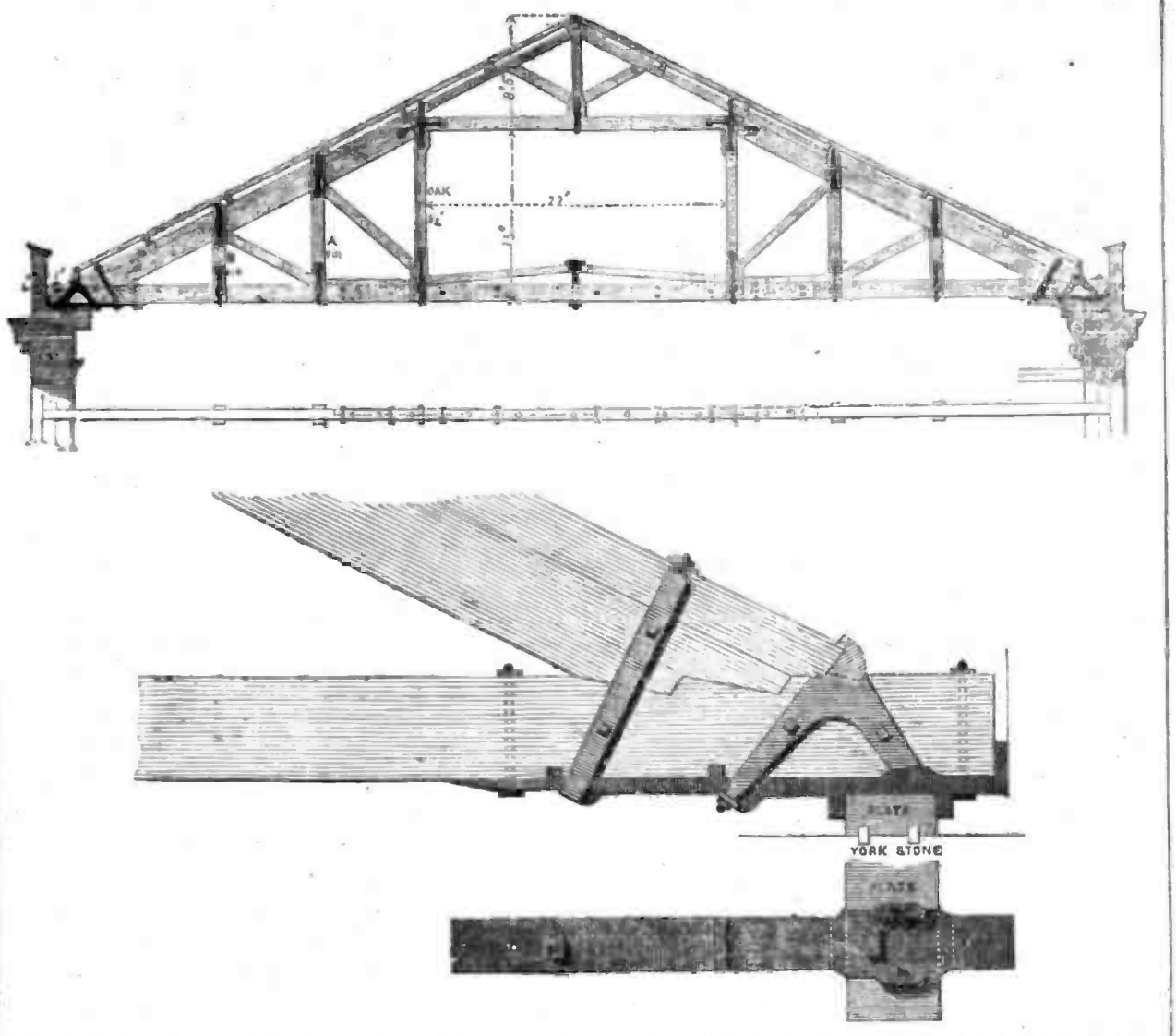
ROOF OVER THE GREAT ROOM, EXETER HALL.



THE ROOF OVER THE GREAT ROOM AT EXETER HALL.

DURING the last three months, we have received from several correspondents a request to be furnished with the particulars of the roof which covers the large room at Exeter Hall.

In the annexed engraving Fig. 1 represents one of the trusses on a scale of 12 feet to an inch, and gives the plan of the underside of the tie-beam, shewing the scarf. The width between the plates is 75 feet 10 inches; the width between the walls 76 feet. The height of the roof from the underside of the tie-beam is 21 feet 6 inches. The trusses are placed at alternate intervals of 2 feet 6 inches and 9 feet. The following are the scantlings of the timbers used:—

		in.	in.	
	Tie Beams	14½	by 7½	
	Principals	14	.. 7½	
	Longer Principals	8½	.. 7½	
	Collar Beams	14	.. 7½	
Solid	Queens, Kings — out of English oak of the best quality	8½	.. 7½	In the Shaft.
		6	.. 7½	
	Braces	7½	.. 7½	
	Upper ditto	6	.. 7½	
	Purlins	7½	.. 4	
	Common Rafter	5	.. 2½	
	Pole Plates	12	.. 4	
	Wall Plates	13½	.. 6½	
	Hip	10	.. 2	
	Ridge Piece	8	.. 3½	
	Hollow Queens A	12	.. 4½	
	Ditto B	10	.. 4½	

Figure 2 represents the foot of the truss with the iron-work at large. The strap and abutment piece are of wrought-iron, the remainder, tinted darker, is of cast-iron. We are indebted to Mr. Laurie, clerk of the works at Pentonville Prison, for the drawing from which our engravings were made.

We found no disposition at Exeter Hall to afford the slightest information, and owe no thanks to the officials.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT DERBY.

WE mentioned in our last impression that a portion of the arch just erected over the Mill Fleam, in the Morledge, had given way, and caused the death of two persons, and that this was the second fatal accident that had occurred in the erection of the same arch, the first causing the death of six persons.

At the inquest, held last week, on the bodies of Mr. James Sims, the builder, and Edward Harlow, his apprentice, it appeared from the evidence of Mr. Harpur, the architect and surveyor to the corporation of Derby, that the centres of the arch had been improperly removed, and that he had cautioned the deceased Sims, the contractor, not to remove them in the manner he had done. He did not, however, interfere with Sims, as he considered that he had more practical information than himself, and he had a better opinion of his knowledge of building than he had of his own.

Mr. J. H. Stevens, of Derby, architect, was of opinion that the accident might arise from two causes—the extreme weight upon the crown of the two arches, and the pier being too weak to support the superincumbent pressure. He believed Sims to have been perfectly competent to perform the work if he had proper instructions."

The jury returned the following verdict: "Accidental death; but the the jury cannot separate without expressing their strong conviction that had the joint committee of the corporation and the commissioners appointed a competent and efficient engineer to superintend over Mr. Sims during the progress and in the execution of the works, and which, they think, after the warning the first accident had conveyed, they should have done, the accident which has since occurred would not have happened."

ANCIENT CAPITALS FROM THE SOANE MUSUEM.

THE extraordinary collection of works of art left by the late Sir John Soane is now open to the public, and will remain so during May and June.* A delightful and instructive morning may be spent there, and we may perhaps before long offer to our readers the notes of a stroll through it, as an inducement to them to examine it for themselves.

The engravings on the opposite page, from sketches by Mr. Richardson, represent some examples from this collection, of a class of antique caps not generally well known. Fig. 1 is from a cast brought from Rome by Mr. Lee, and purchased at his sale by Sir John Soane. The original of figure 2 is not so perfect in *front* as it is shewn by the engraving. The lower leaves, copied from the side, are introduced so that the whole design may be seen.

* On application being made to the curator, Mr. G. Bailey, a ticket is forwarded.

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